

THERAPEUTIC COMPOUNDS

This invention relates to novel structural analogues and derivatives of compounds with general analgesic or related pharmacological activity. In particular the invention relates to derivatives of opioid compounds, particularly morphine and related compounds.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A large range of therapeutic compounds is currently used in the treatment of conditions such as allergies, diarrhoea, migraine and other pain conditions, and in the treatment of congestive heart failure. These compounds include compounds with analgesic or related activities, such as anti-tussives, anti-depressants, local anaesthetics, anti-hypertensives, anti-asthmatics, anti-histamines, and anti-serotonins.

However, many of the therapeutic compounds of the types enumerated above have undesirable side-effects, such as the respiratory depression caused by opiates. In particular, many drugs which are useful for their action on the peripheral nervous system have undesirable effects in the central nervous system.

Thus opiates are the most powerful analgesics known, but their usefulness is greatly limited by their side-effects, including severe respiratory depression, and ability to induce addiction and physical dependence.

Despite intensive efforts to design analogues of morphine and related opioids which retain the analgesic activity but which do not have a deleterious effect on the central nervous system and the bowel, success has been limited. Structure-activity relationships have been extensively investigated, and a number of features have been widely accepted as essential. See for example "An Introduction to Pharmacology" by J.J. Lewis (E. & S. Livingston Ltd, 1964 Pages 401-407), and "Principles of Drug Action: The Basis of Pharmacology (Ed. W.B. Pratt and

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P.Taylor; Churchill Livingstone, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1990, Pages 25-27). In particular, it is generally considered that to retain analgesic activity the group on the tertiary nitrogen should be small, and should preferably be methyl; larger substituents are likely to be opiate receptor antagonists rather than agonists. Thus replacement of the methyl group of morphine by an allyl or cyclopropylmethyl moiety produces an antagonist. Although there are some exceptions to this rule, such as N-amylnormorphine and N-hexylnormorphine, in general a large substituent will result in antagonist activity.

We have attempted to modify the ability of biologically-active compounds to cross the blood-brain barrier by incorporating a highly polar group into the molecular structure. Thus we have shown that derivatives of the 2N atom of mianserin comprising a guanidino group show H<sub>1</sub> and 5-hydroxytryptamine activity, but show no detectable activity in the central nervous system. In contrast, a compound in which the 2N atom of mianserin was substituted with a urea group still showed pronounced central nervous system activity (Jackson *et al*; Clin. Ex. Pharmacol. Physiol., 1992 19 17-23 and our U.S. Patent No. 5,049,637).

Naltrexamine and oximorphamine have been modified by incorporation of groups which are zwitterionic at biological pH in order to restrict access to the central nervous system (Botros *et al*; J. Med. Chem., 1989 32 2068-2071, and Portoghese, U.S. Patent No. 4,730,048). In US-4,730,048 the zwitterionic group was added at C6. Some of these analogues were full agonists, and one was a strong antagonist.

A bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-substituted compound in which a guanidino derivative was attached to the nitrogen via a 3 carbon spacer chain was found to show no opioid activity at  $\mu$ -receptors in isolated guinea-pig ileum (Jackson *et al*, 1992). This suggested that such compounds would not have the desired activity.

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## 20

[opioid-N]-[spacer]-[charged group],

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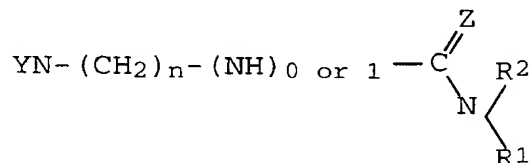
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~~35~~

Sub  
A7 35

optionally be substituted. The spacer may also comprise a cyclic alkyl, alkenyl or alkynyl group. Preferably the spacer group is unsubstituted, and more preferably is of 2 to 3 carbon atoms. The charged group may be any group which has the ability to restrict access of the compound of formula I to the central nervous system, and is preferably an amidine or guanidine group.

According to one embodiment, the present invention provides an opioid compound of general formula (II)



in which

YN- represents an organic residue obtained by removal of the R group from an opioid compound of general formula



wherein R is H, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or cyclopropylmethyl, or of the general formula



wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is methyl or ethyl, and  $\text{Y}^1\text{-NR}^4$  represents the corresponding organic residue;

Z is O, S or  $\text{NR}^3$ ;

$\text{R}^1$  is  $\text{H}_1$ , alkyl or aryloxyalkyl, wherein the aryl group is optionally substituted by alkyl, alkoxy, halogen,

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or alkyl substituted by halogen, and alkyl, alkoxy and the alkyl moiety of aryloxy alkyl have 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

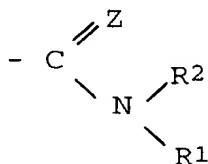
$R^2$  is H or an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

5  $R^3$  is H, alkyl, hydroxy, amino, cyano or acyl, wherein alkyl and acyl have 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

$n$  is an integer of 1 to 6,

and wherein

10  $R^1$  and  $R^3$  may together complete an addition ring; then the grouping



may become a heterocyclic moiety such as  
15 2-imidazolyl or 2-imidazolinyl:



Preferably  $R$  is  $\text{CH}_3$ .

20 Preferably  $n$  is 2 or 3.

Preferably  $Z$  is  $\text{NH}$ , and  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  are both H.

In order to indicate the trivalent N-atom more clearly, the structure of compounds of the formula (IIIa) may be written

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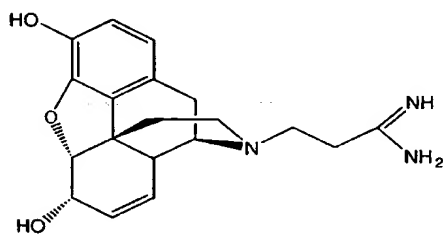


The precursors of YN- and Y<sup>1</sup>NR<sup>4</sup>- respectively are selected from compounds which are structurally related to morphine.

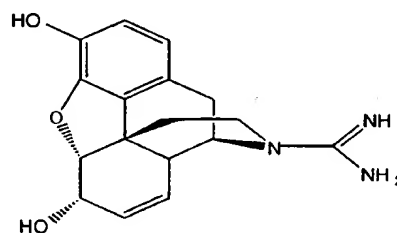
Thus the precursor of YN- or Y<sup>1</sup>NR<sup>4</sup>- is preferably a compound selected from the group consisting of morphine, codeine, heroin, ethylmorphine, O-carboxymethylmorphine, O-acetylmorphine, hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, dihydrocodeine, thebaine, metopon, etorphine, acetorphine, ketobemidone, ethoheptazine, diprenorphine (M5050), buprenorphine, phenomorphan, levorphanol, pentazocine, eptazocine and metazocine.

Preferably the precursor is morphine, codeine or buprenorphine.

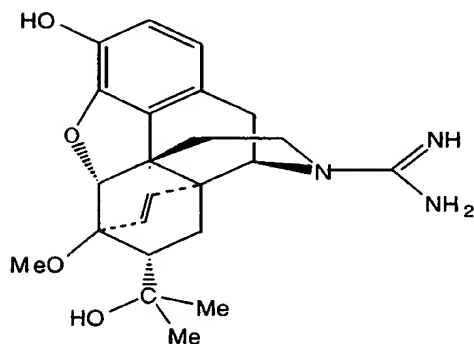
In a preferred embodiment, the compound of general formula I is one of the following:



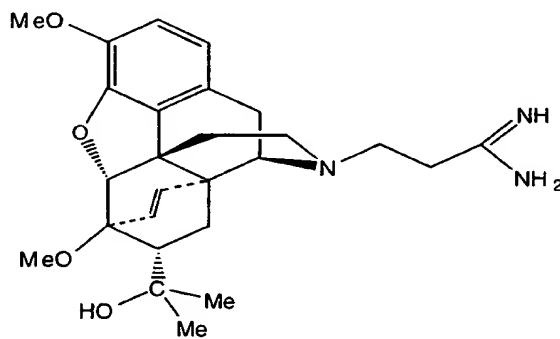
KRS-41



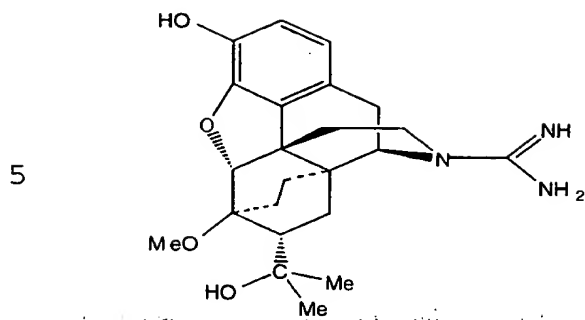
KRS-2-19



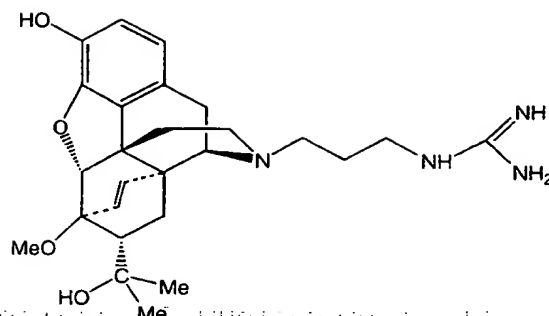
KRS-3-23-4



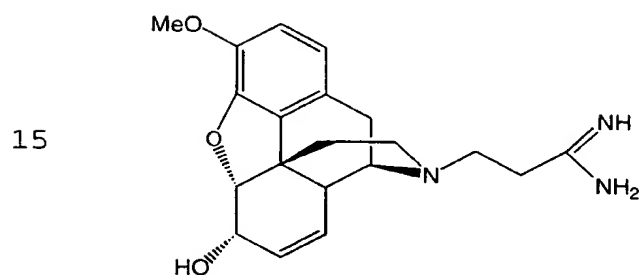
KRS-3-28



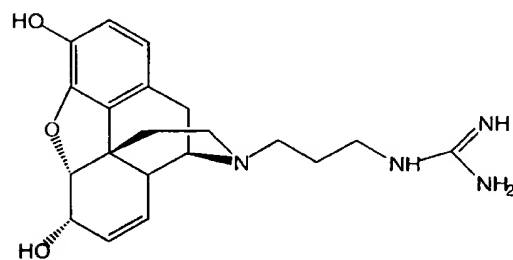
KRS-3-30-2



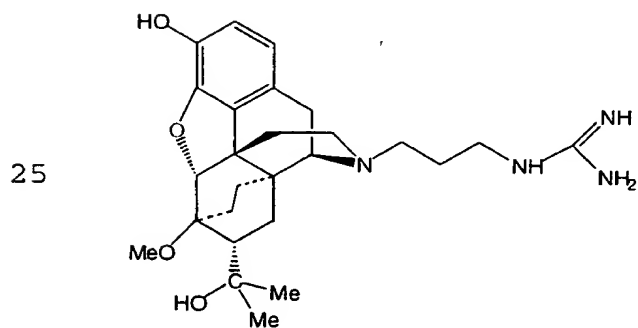
KRS-3-56



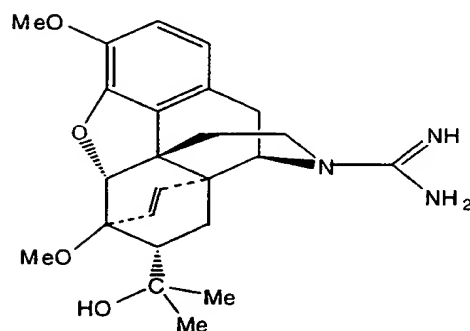
KRS-2-63



KRS-2-47



KRS-4-8



KRS-3-7

Typical examples of morphine-related compounds of the formula (IIIa) or (IIIc) are illustrated in Table 1. In each case the group R has been circled in order to clearly identify the residue YN- or Y<sup>1</sup>NR<sup>4</sup>- as the remainder of the molecule.

Year	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	

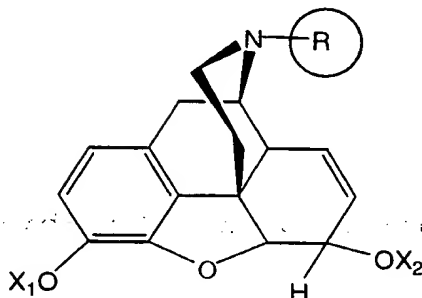


Table 1

Compounds with Analgesic or Related Type  
Activity and Some Related Structures

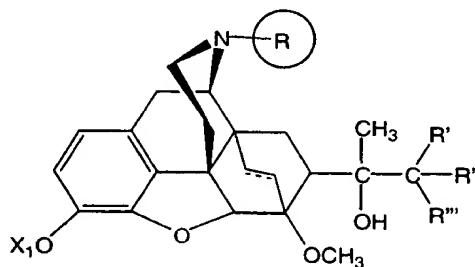
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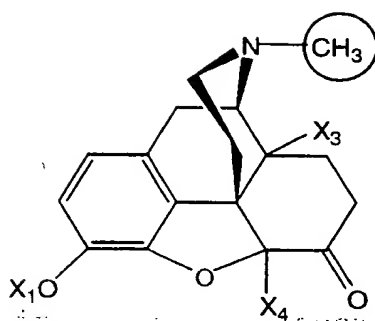
R	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	Name
CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	Morphine
"	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	Codeine
"	Et	H	Ethylmorphine
"	Ac	Ac	Heroin
"	CH <sub>2</sub> COOH	H	O-Carboxymethylmorphine
"	Ac	H	O-Acetylmorphine
"	tBuMe <sub>2</sub> Si	tBuMe <sub>2</sub> Si	"Disilyl" morphine
H	tBuMe <sub>2</sub> Si	tBuMe <sub>2</sub> Si	"Disilyl" normorphine

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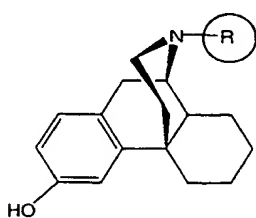


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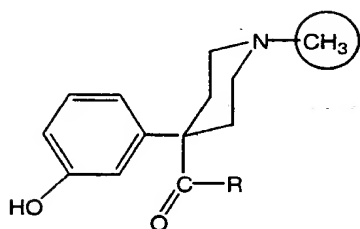
R	X	- or =	R'	R''	R'''	Name
CH <sub>3</sub>	H	=	H	H	Et	Etorphine
"	Ac	=	H	H	Et	Acetorphine
"	H	-	H	H	Et	-
"	Ac	-	H	H	Et	-
CH <sub>2</sub> -Δ	H	=	H	H	H	Diprenorphine
"	H	=	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	Buprenorphine



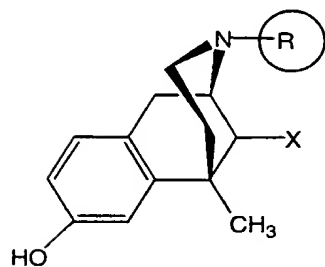
X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>	Name
CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	Hydrocodone
H	H	H	Hydromorphone
H	OH	H	Oxymorphone
CH <sub>3</sub>	OH	H	Oxycodone
H	H	CH <sub>3</sub>	Metopon



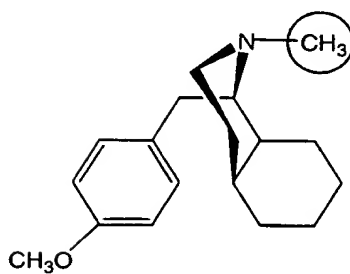
R	Name
PhCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	Phenomorphane
CH <sub>3</sub>	Levorphanol



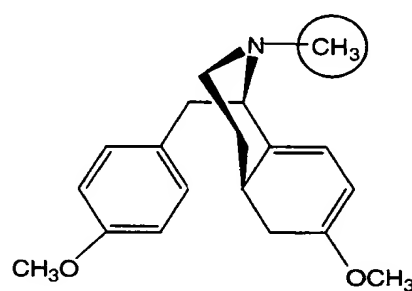
R	Name
CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	Ketobemidone
CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> O	Ethoheptazine



R	X	Name
CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	Ketobemidone
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	Eptazocine
Me <sub>2</sub> C=CHCH <sub>2</sub> -	CH <sub>3</sub>	Pentazocine



Dihydrocodeine



Thebaine

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Thus the invention provides in a second broad aspect an opiate receptor agonist having analgesic properties and having reduced or no CNS activity. Preferably the opiate receptor agonist is a compound of  
 5 general formula I or general formula II as defined above.

Where appropriate, the invention also includes pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula I, or formula II. A variety of pharmaceutically-acceptable salt-forming organic and inorganic acids is well  
 10 known in the art.

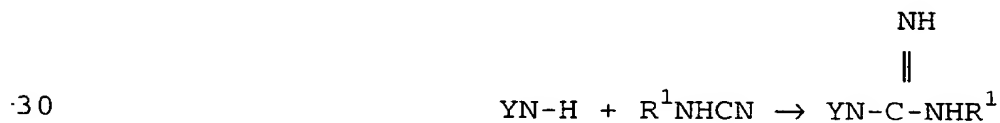
According to third aspect, the invention provides a method of reducing the central nervous system activity of an opioid compound, comprising the step of linking the nitrogen atom at position 17 of said compound to a spacer group, which in turn is linked to a charged group. Optionally the linkage to the charged group is via a spacer group.  
 15

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, methods for the preparation of the compounds of formula II are provided, as set out below, in which it will be appreciated that YN- may be replaced by Y<sup>1</sup>NR<sup>4</sup>-:  
 20

1. By the reaction of a compound of formula



25 with a cyanamide, R<sup>1</sup>NHCN, according to the equation



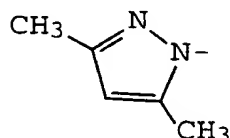
2. By the reaction of a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula



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- 12 -

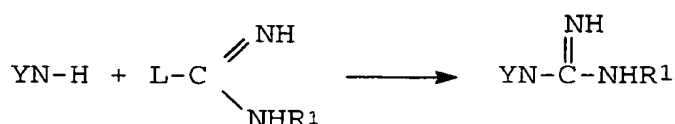
wherein L is a suitable leaving group, for example  $\text{CH}_3\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{S}$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$  or



(3,5-dimethylpyrazol-1-yl)

5

according to the equation

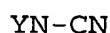


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Compounds of the formula (II) wherein Z is S not only possess useful therapeutic activity *per se*, but may also be used as intermediates for the preparation of compounds of formula II wherein Z is  $\text{NR}^2$ , eg.

3. By the reaction of a compound of the formula

15

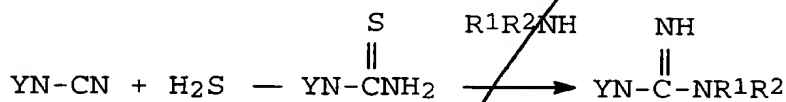


(VI)

with  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  there is obtained an N-thiocarboxamide  $\text{YN-CSNH}_2$ , which may be reacted with an amine  $\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{NH}$

20

according to the two-stage equation



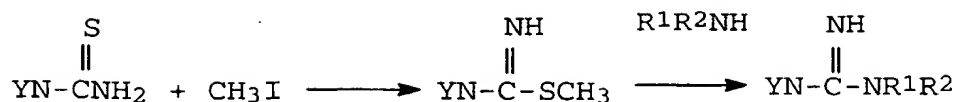
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to yield compounds of the invention where Z is S and where Z is NH.

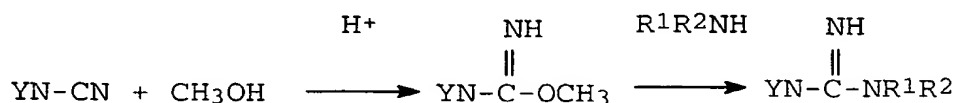
4.

The N-thiocarboxamide may also be methylated, for example using  $\text{CH}_3\text{I}$ , to yield an isothiurea compound, which in turn may be reacted with an amine  $\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{NH}$  to yield a compound of the invention:

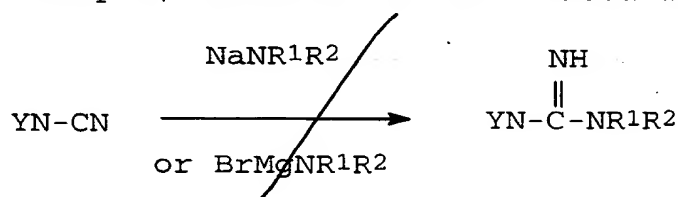
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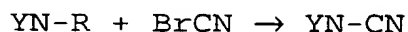
5 5. An alternative method of synthesis of compounds of formula (II) comprises reacting an N-cyano compound of formula (VI) with methanol under acidic conditions to yield an isourea, which in turn is reacted with an amine according to the equation



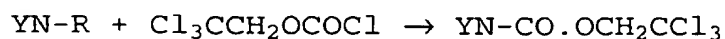
6. Compounds according to formula (II) where Z is N may also be prepared, for example from the N-cyano compound of formula (VI) and the appropriate metallated residue (for example, sodamide or metallated amines):



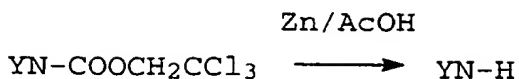
7. Compounds of the formula (VI), most of which are also novel, and which are useful as intermediates in reactions 3, 5 and 6 above, are prepared by reacting a compound of formula (III) (see Table 1) with cyanogen bromide in a hydrocarbon solvent:



8. Compounds of general formula (IV), which are useful as intermediates in reactions 1 and 2, are prepared from the compounds of formula (III) (Table 1) by the following reactions:



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Some compounds of the invention are optically active, and it will be clearly understood that both racemic mixtures and isolated stereoisomers are within the scope of the invention.

According to a fifth aspect, the invention provides a composition comprising as an effective agent a compound according to formula I, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Methods and pharmaceutical carriers for preparation of pharmaceutical compositions are well known in the art, as set out in textbooks such as Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 17th Edition, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, Pennsylvania, USA.

According to a sixth aspect, the invention provides a method of inducing analgesia, comprising the step of administering an effective amount of a compound of the invention to a mammal in need of such treatment. The mammal may be a human, or may be a domestic, companion or zoo mammal. Preferably the mammal is a human.

The dosage to be used will depend on the nature and severity of the condition to be treated, and will be at the discretion of the attending physician or veterinarian. The most suitable dosage for a specific condition can be determined using normal chemical trial procedures.

For the purposes of this specification it will be clearly understood that the word "comprising" means "including but not limited to", and that the word "comprises" has a corresponding meaning.

#### Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 shows dose-response curves for morphine-like activity in guinea-pig stimulated ileum preparations, using morphine as standard:

a) Compounds KRS-3-28 and KRS-3-30-2 (4 animals in each group);

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- b) Compounds KRS-41 and KRS-2-19.
- c) Compound KRS-3-56 (3 animals in each group).

# DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5           The invention will now be described in detail by way of reference only to the following non-limiting examples, and to the Figures.

## Example 1      Preparation of N-Cyano Compounds, YN-CN

10           A solution of YN-R (0.02 mole of the base) in anhydrous benzene (20 ml) was added slowly to a stirred solution of cyanogen bromide (2.3 g) in anhydrous benzene (20 ml) in an atmosphere of nitrogen. After 24 hours, the mixture was diluted with diethyl ether (50 ml) and shaken  
15 with water (50 ml). The separated aqueous layer was back extracted with a mixture of benzene and ether (equal volumes of each, total 50 ml) and the combined organic layers dried over anhydrous potassium carbonate and then evaporated under reduced pressure. The residual solid was  
20 recrystallized from ethanol to give the N-cyano derivative YN-CN as colourless needles.

NH

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## Example 2      Preparation of Carboxamidines, YN-C-NH<sub>2</sub>

25           A solution of sodamide in liquid ammonia was prepared in the usual way from metallic sodium (0.35 g) in dried liquid ammonia (150 ml) in the presence of a trace of ferric nitrate. The reaction mixture was kept at about -70°C and moisture was rigorously excluded. The N-cyano  
30 derivative YN-CN (0.01 mol) was then added slowly, and the mixture stirred whilst dried hexamethylphosphorictriamide (HMPA) was added dropwise until the N-cyano compound began to dissolve; about 1 ml of HMPA was required. A deep brown solution was formed. The stirring was continued for  
35 30 minutes and the solution poured cautiously into a solution of ammonium chloride (4 g) in iced water (150 ml). The resulting suspension was kept for some 30 minutes at

- 16 -

room temperature and the solid then filtered off and washed with a little water. The residue (a) was reserved. The combined filtrate and washings were concentrated in vacuo to about 25 ml, when a second crop of solid (b) separated.

5 The two crops (a) and (b) were combined and recrystallized from isopropanol to give the carboxyamidine hydrochloride

NH  
||

YN-C-NH<sub>2</sub>.HCl as the colourless solid.

10

Example 3      Preparation of Thiocarboxamido Derivatives,  
                  YN-CSNH<sub>2</sub>

Dry hydrogen sulphide was passed through a solution of the N-cyano compound YN-CN (500 mg) in a mixture of triethylamine (0.25 ml) and pyridine (25 ml) for 24 hours. The resulting solution was poured into water (150 ml) and the mixture stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature to afford colourless crystals which were filtered off, washed with fresh water and dried in in vacuo. Recrystallization from a mixture of diethyl ether and light petroleum gave colourless needles of the desired compound.

15

20

Example 4      Preparation of Carboxoamido Derivatives,  
                  YN-CONH<sub>2</sub>

25

A slurry of the N-cyano compound YN-CN (0.02 moles) in aqueous hydrogen peroxide (100 Vol., 0.51 ml) and 20% aqueous sodium hydroxide (0.51 ml) was stirred for 30 minutes, during which time the reaction mixture became warm, then cooled to room temperature; some oxygen was evolved. Three portions of methanol (3 x 2 ml) were added to the reaction mixture, at 30 minute intervals with stirring. The mixture was warmed to 60°C for 15 minutes, then poured into water (50 ml) to give a white precipitate which was filtered at the pump, washed with water (2 x 10 ml) and dried in vacuo to give the N-carboxamido derivative YN-CONH<sub>2</sub> as a colourless solid.

30

35



Example 5      Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethyl-  
siloxyl)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxymorphinan  
(3,6 $\alpha$ -Bis[dimethyl(1,1-dimethylethyl)siloxyl]-  
7,8-didehydro-4,5 $\alpha$ -epoxymorphinan)

5                      Dry, alcohol-free dichloromethane (100 ml) was  
added to a flask containing normorphine (5.42 g, 20 mmol),  
t-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (6.62 g, 44 mmol), imidazole  
(6.12 g, 90 mmol), and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (120 mg,  
10 1.0 mmol). After 20 hours of stirring at room temperature,  
the reaction mixture was diluted with ether (200 ml),  
washed with water (3 x 200 ml), dried (Na<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>), and  
evaporated to give a grey-yellow solid (10.11 g).  
Recrystallization from ethanol gave very fine grey needles  
15 (5.20 g, 52%), m.p. 105.7-107.0°C. The mother liquors were  
recrystallized (ethanol, twice) to give a second crop  
(2.45 g, 25%), m.p. 105.0-106.7°C. A small portion of the  
first crop was recrystallized again to give m.p. 106.2-  
107.2°C.

20                      Example 6      Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethyl-  
siloxyl)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-  
methyilmorphinan (O,O'-Bis-t-  
butyldimethylsilyl-morphine)

25                      Ref: Neuvo, J. Chim. 1980 4 (6) 369-375  
Solid t-butylchlorodimethylsilane (3.8 g,  
25 mmol) was added to a stirred solution of morphine  
(3.0 g, 10.5 mmol) and imidazole (3.6 g, 52.9 mmol) in  
dimethylformamide (DMF; 20 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere.  
30 Stirring of the reaction mixture was continued at room  
temperature for 2 hours, then the mixture was heated to 90°  
for 4 hours. The mixture was poured into water (25 ml)  
then extracted into dichloromethane (3 x 25 ml), dried  
(K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>) and evaporated to give a yellow oil, which  
35 crystallised on addition of a small amount of methanol.  
Recrystallisation from methanol gave colourless needles  
m.p. 118-119°C (Lit 119-119.5°C) (5.02 g, 93%).

Example 7      Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethyl-siloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-N-cyano-morphinan

5                    A solution of bis-silylmorphine (7.0 g, 1.36 mmol) in dry benzene (50 ml) was added dropwise to a stirred solution of cyanogen bromide (2.9 g, 27.4 mmol) in dry benzene under a nitrogen atmosphere. The stirred solution was refluxed for 4 hours, allowed to cool to room  
10                   temperature, then evaporated. The solid residue was purified by rotary chromatography (SiO<sub>2</sub>: 5% ethanol in chloroform), then crystallisation from methanol to give 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethyl-siloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-N-cyano-morphinan (6.3 g, 86%).

15                   Example 8      Preparation of O,O'-bis-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N-thiocarboxamidonormorphine

                    Cyanamide (524 mg, 1.0 mmol) and triethylamine (101 mg, 1.0 mmol) were dissolved in dry pyridine (20 ml).  
20                   Dry hydrogen sulphide gas was slowly bubbled through the stirred pyridine solution for 4 hours, then the mixture was poured into water (100 ml), extracted into dichloromethane (3 x 20 ml), washed with water (3 x 20 ml), dried with MgSO<sub>4</sub>, and evaporated. Recrystallisation from methanol  
25                   gave colourless needles of the required O,O'-bis-t-butyldimethylsilyl-N-thiocarboxamidonormorphine (490 mg, 88%).

30                   Example 9      Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethyl-siloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-carboxamidino)-morphinan

                    Ref: Ravi S. Garigipati, Tetrahedron Letters, Vol 31, No 14, pp 1969-1972, 1990.

35                   J. I. Levin, E. Turos and S.M. Weinrub, Synthetic Communications, 12, 989-993, 1982.

                    A solution of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-N-cyano-morphinan (100 mg.

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0.19 mmol) in dry benzene (2 ml) was added to a solution of methylchloroaluminium amide (prepared according to the Weinrub procedure) in benzene at room temperature. This solution was heated at 80°C under nitrogen for 20 h. The reaction mixture was cooled, and the aluminium complex was decomposed by carefully pouring the solution into a slurry of silica gel (2.0 g) in chloroform. The mixture was stirred for 5 min and filtered. The filter cake was washed with methanol (50 mL). Evaporation of the filtrate gave a white solid (0.106 g), which was used in the next step without further purification.

Example 10      Preparation of (5 $\alpha$ ,6 $\alpha$ )-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-N-(2-carboxamidino)-morphinan-3,6,-diol. (KRS-2-19)  
Ref: R. Newton, D. Reynolds, M. Finch, D. Kelly, S. Roberts, Tetrahedron Letters, No 41, 3981-82, 1979.

A slurry of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-carboxamidino-morphinan (106 mg, 0.19 mmol) in 10:1 mixture of acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran was cooled in an ice bath, and 40% aqueous HF (0.2 mL) was added dropwise. After stirring overnight at room temperature the reaction mixture was concentrated under reduced pressure to give a light yellow solid, which was passed through a short silica gel column using methylene chloride/methanol in 8:2 ratio as the eluent to give KRS-2-19 as a white solid (0.64 g, 98%).

Example 11      Alternative Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxymorphinan

Normorphine, prepared according to Chemical Abstracts, Vol. 54, 162f, (100 mg, 0.36 mmol) was dissolved in dry DMF (0.5 mL) and imidazole (0.0628 g, 0.92 mmol) and dimethylaminopyridine (0.07 g) was added. t-Butyldimethylsilyl chloride was then added in small amounts at room

- 20 -

temperature. After the addition was complete the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen while being monitored by thin layer chromatography. After 10-15 min distilled water was added and the reaction mixture was extracted with methylene chloride. The methylene chloride layer was dried over potassium carbonate and evaporated under reduced pressure to give crude product, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using methylene chloride/methanol/ammonium hydroxide in 9:1:0.1 ratio as the eluent. (Yield = 120 mg, 65%).

Example 12      Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl)morphinan

Ref: J.A.Bell and C. Kenworthy, Synthesis, 650-652, 1971.

3,6-Bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxymorphinan (0.26 g, 0.52 mmol) was dissolved in absolute ethanol (3 mL) and acrylonitrile (0.07 mL, 1.0 mmol) was added dropwise at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight, and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure to give a white solid (0.26 g, 90% yield).

Example 13      Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-N-[(2-aminoiminomethyl)ethyl]morphinan

A solution of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl) morphinan (0.257 g, 0.46 mmol) in dry benzene (5 mL) was added to a solution of methylchloroaluminum amide in benzene at room temperature. The solution was heated at 80°C under nitrogen for 20 h. This was worked up as before to give a white solid (0.157 g), which was used for the next step without further purification.

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Example 14      Preparation of (5 $\alpha$ ,6 $\alpha$ )-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-N-[(2-aminoiminomethyl)ethyl]-morphinan-3,6-diol. (KRS-41)

The crude 3,6,bis(t-butylldimethylsiloxyl)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-N[(2-aminoiminomethyl)ethyl]-morphinan was deprotected using 40% HF in 10:1 mixture of acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran as described before. The product was triturated with ethylacetate and with methanol. The remaining white precipitate was recrystallized with ethanol and water to give KRS-41 as a white powder (90 mg) in 94% yield.

Example 15      Preparation of N-carboxamidino-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydro-northebaine (KRS-3-7)

N-Cyano-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronorthebaine was prepared according to the method of Bentley and Hardy, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 1967 89 3281-3292. This compound was reacted with methylchloroaluminum amide in benzene as described before. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using methylene chloride/methanol/ammonium chloride in 6:1:0.1 ratio as the eluent to give KRS-3-7 as a white solid (56 mg. 91% yield).

Example 16      Preparation of N[(2-aminoiminomethyl)ethyl]-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronorthebaine (KRS-3-28)

7 $\alpha$ -(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronorthebaine, prepared according to the method of Bentley and Hardy (1967) *op. cit.*, was converted to the corresponding N-2-cyanoethyl compound in 96% yield by reacting with acrylonitrile in absolute ethanol.

N-2-Cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronorthebaine was then reacted with methylchloroaluminum amide in benzene as described above. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on

5    Example 17      N-Carboxamidino-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydro-nororipavine (KRS-3-23-4)

20

Example 18      N-Carboxamidino-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-  
6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydro-oripavine (KRS-3-  
30-2)

7 $\alpha$ -(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydro-oripavine was prepared by the method of Lewis, J.W., "Narcotic Antagonists", in Advances in Biochemical Psychopharmacology, 1974 8 123-136, Raven Press, New York. The 3-O-acetyl ester was prepared by the addition of acetic anhydride to a solution of the phenol in aqueous sodium hydroxide, and was obtained as a white solid. The O-acetyl ester was then reacted with cyanogen bromide in dry chloroform to give N-cyano-nororipavine derivative in 70% yield, which was then reacted with methychloroaluminum amide in benzene. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using methylene chloride/methanol/ammonium hydroxide in 9:1:0.1

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ratio. KRS-3-30-2 was obtained as a white powder in 30% yield.

Example 19      N-(N'-carboxamidino-3-aminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronororipavine (KRS 3-56)

a) *Preparation of N-2-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronororipavine*  
*7 $\alpha$ -(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-*

ethenotetrahydronororipavine was prepared according to the method of K.W. Bentley and D.G. Hardy, Journal of the American Chemical Society, 1967 89 3281-3292. This compound was reacted with acrylonitrile in absolute ethanol as described. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using methylene chloride/ethyl acetate/methanol in 4:4:1 ratio as the eluent.

b) *Preparation of 3-(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-N-2-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydro-nororipavine*

Solid t-butyldimethylsilyl chloride (0.035 g, 0.227 mmol) was added in small amounts to a stirred solution of N-2-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronororipavine (80 mg, 0.189 mmol), imidazole (0.015 g, 0.227 mmol) and 4-dimethylaminopyridine (0.005 g) in anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.5 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere. After stirring for 1h at room temperature distilled water (10 ml) was added to the reaction mixture and the mixture was extracted with methylene chloride. The organic layer was dried over potassium carbonate and evaporated under reduced pressure. The solid formed was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, using ethyl acetate/X4 in 1:1 ratio as the eluent. (Yield = 79 mg, 78%)

35

c) Preparation of 3-(*t*-butyldimethylsiloxy)-*N*-(3-aminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydro-nororipavine.

3-(*t*-butyldimethylsiloxy)-*N*-2-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydro-nororipavine (100 mg, 0.186 mmol) in dry ethyl ether (2 ml) was added dropwise to lithium aluminium hydride (0.008 g, 0.223 mmol) in dry ether (2 ml). After stirring for 3 h at room temperature wet ether followed by 10% NaOH (1 ml) was added to the reaction mixture. The solution was filtered and the white precipitate was washed with ether. The ether layer was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the amine as a white solid (99 mg, 98%).

d) Preparation of 3-(*t*-butyldimethylsiloxy)-*N*-(*N*-carboxamidino-3-aminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronororipavine

Ref: Michael S. Bernatowicz, Youling Wu and Gary R. Matsueda, Journal of Organic Chemistry, 1992 57 2497-2502

To a mixture of 3-(*t*-butyldimethylsiloxy)-*N*-(3-aminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronororipavine (0.196 g, 0.37 mmol), diisopropylethylamine (0.065 ml, 0.37 mmol) and 1H-pyrazole-1-carboxamidine hydrochloride (0.055 g, 0.37 mmol) was added anhydrous dimethylformamide (2 ml), and the reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature under nitrogen for overnight. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, and the crude product was chromatographed on silica gel. (Yield = 0.191 g, 88%).

e) Preparation of *N*-(*N'*-carboxamidino-3-aminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydro-nororipavine (KRS 3-56)

40% HF (0.3 ml, 0.0065 mol) was added dropwise to 3-(*t*-butyldimethylsiloxy)-*N*-(*N'*-aminoiminomethyl-



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aminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethenotetrahydronororipavine (0.191 g, 0.3 mmol) in 10:1 mixture of acetonitrile/tetrahydrofuran (10 ml), and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The white precipitate formed was filtered and was washed with acetonitrile and then with methanol to give KRS 3-56 as a white solid (0.135 g, 96%).

Example 20     5 $\alpha$ ,6 $\alpha$ -7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-N-[(2-aminoiminomethyl)ethyl]morphinan (KRS-2-63)

a) *Preparation of 7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl)morphinan-3,6-diol*

Acrylonitrile (0.03 mL, 0.44 mmol) was added dropwise to normorphine (0.1 g, 0.37 mmol) in absolute ethanol (2 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature overnight and the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure. The crude product was chromatographed on silica gel using ethylacetate and hexane in 3:1 ratio as the eluent (yield = 86 mg, 71%).

b) *Preparation of 7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl)morphinan-6-ol*

7,8,-Didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl)-morphinan-3,6-diol (86 mg, 0.265 mmol) was suspended in dry acetone (2 mL), and anhydrous potassium carbonate (0.037 g, 0.27 mmol) was added, followed by methyl iodide (0.025 mL, 0.39 mmol). After refluxing for 5 h the solvent was evaporated under reduced pressure and the crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethylacetate and hexane in 2:1 ratio as the eluting solvent (yield = 70 mg, 78%).

c) *Preparation of 6-t-butyl dimethylsiloxy-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl)morphinan*

7,8-Didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl)morphinan-6-ol (50 mg, 0.15 mmol) was dissolved

in dry dimethylformamide (0.5 mL), and imidazole (11.1 mg, 0.16 mmol) and dimethylaminopyridine (20 mg) was added. t-Butyldimethylsilyl chloride (24.1 mg, 0.16 mmol) was then added at room temperature under nitrogen atmosphere. After stirring for 2 h at room temperature, distilled water was added and the reaction mixture was extracted with methylene chloride. The methylene chloride layer was dried with potassium carbonate and evaporated under reduced pressure to give the crude product, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethylacetate/hexane in 3:1 ratio as the eluent (yield = 50 mg, 73%).

d) *Preparation of 6-t-butyldimethylsiloxy-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-N-[(2-aminoiminomethyl)ethyl]-morphinan*

A solution of 6-t-butyldimethylsiloxy-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-(N-2-cyanoethyl)morphinan (50 mg, 0.11 mmol) in dry benzene (2 mL) was added to a solution of methylchloroaluminum amide in benzene at room temperature. The solution was heated at 80°C under nitrogen for 20 h. The reaction mixture was worked up as before to give a light brown solid, which was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using methylene chloride/methanol/ammonia in 9:1:0.1 ratio to give the product as a white solid (yield = 44 mg, 85%).

e) *Preparation of 5 $\alpha$ ,6 $\alpha$ -7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-N-[(2-aminoiminomethyl)ethyl]morphinan (KRS-2-63)*

6-t-Butyldimethylsiloxy-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-N-[(2-aminoiminomethyl-ethyl)morphinan (44 mg, 0.09 mmol) was dissolved in a mixture of acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran (2.5 mL/0.25 mL) and the solution was cooled in an ice bath. To this 0.1 mL of 40% HF was added dropwise, and the mixture was stirred for 2 h at room temperature. The white precipitate formed was filtered and

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washed with acetonitrile to give KRS-2-63 as the fluoride salt (yield = 34 mg, 96%).

Example 21      N-(aminoiminomethylaminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydronororipavine (KRS-4-8)

(a) Preparation of N-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydronororipavine  
7 $\alpha$ -(1-Hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-

ethanotetrahydronororipavine was prepared according to the method of Lewis (J.W. Lewis: Narcotic Antagonists, in Advances in Biochemical Psychopharmacology, Vol. 8 edited by M.C. Braude, L.S. Harris, E.L. May, J.P. Smith and J.E.Villarreal. Raven Press, New York 1974). This compound was reacted with acrylonitrile in absolute ethanol as described. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel using ethyl acetate/hexane in 1:1 ratio as the eluent.

(b) Preparation of 3-(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-N-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydro-nororipavine

N-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydronororipavine was reacted with t-butyldimethylsilylchloride as described for KRS-3-56. The crude product was purified by column chromatography on silica gel, using ethylacetate/hexane in 2:1 ratio as the eluent.

c) Preparation of 3-(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-N-aminopropyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydro-nororipavine

3-(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-N-cyanoethyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydro-nororipavine (0.11 g, 0.204 mmol) in dry ethyl ether (2 ml) was added dropwise to a suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (0.093 g, 2.45 mmol) in dry ethyl ether (2 ml).

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After stirring for 3 h at room temperature, wet ether (5 ml) followed by 10% sodium hydroxide (1 ml) was added to the reaction mixture. The solution was filtered, and the white precipitate was washed with ether. The filtrate was  
5 evaporated under reduced pressure to give the amine as a clear liquid (70 mg, 63%).

d) *Preparation of 3-(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-N-(aminoiminomethylaminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydronororipavine*  
10

Anhydrous dimethylformamide (0.5 ml) was added to a mixture of 3-(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-N-aminopropyl-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydro-  
nororipavine (70 mg, 0.129 mmol), diisopropylethylamine  
15 (0.022 ml, 0.129 mmol) and 1H-pyrazole-1-carboxamide hydrochloride (0.019 g, 0.129 mmol), and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature under nitrogen. The solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure, and the crude product was chromatographed on  
20 silica gel (yield = 57 mg, 76%).

e) *Preparation of N-(aminoiminomethylaminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydronororipavine (KRS-4-8)*

25 40% HF (0.2 ml, 0.004 mol) was added dropwise to 3-(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-N-(aminoiminomethylaminopropyl)-7 $\alpha$ -(1-hydroxy-1-methylethyl)-6,14-endo-ethanotetrahydro-  
nororipavine (57 mg, 0.097 mmol) in a 10:1 mixture of acetonitrile/tetrahydrofuran (10 ml), and the reaction  
30 mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature. The white precipitate formed was filtered, and was washed with acetonitrile and then with methanol to give KRS-4-8 as the fluoride salt (44 mg, 96% yield).

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Example 22      Synthesis of (5 $\alpha$ ,6 $\alpha$ )-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-aminoiminomethylaminopropyl)morphinan-3,6-diol (KRS-2-47)

Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-aminopropylmorphinan

A solution of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-cyanoethylmorphinan (200 mg, 0.36 mmol) in dry ethyl ether (5 ml) was added dropwise to a suspension of lithium aluminum hydride (0.13 g, 3.6 mmol) in dry ethyl ether (5 ml). After stirring for 3 h at room temperature the reaction mixture was added wet ether followed by 10% sodium hydroxide (1.5 ml). The solution was filtered, and the white precipitate was washed with ether. The ether layer was evaporated under reduced pressure to give the amine as a clear liquid (yield = 0.2 g, 99%).

Preparation of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-aminoiminomethylaminopropyl)-morphinan

Anhydrous dimethylformamide (2 ml) was added to a mixture of 3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-aminopropylmorphinan (0.2 g, 0.359 mmol), diisopropylethylamine (0.07 ml, 0.39 mmol), and 1H-pyrazole-1-carboxamide hydrochloride (0.06g, 0.39 mmol) and the reaction mixture was stirred overnight at room temperature under nitrogen. The reaction mixture was evaporated to dryness under reduced pressure, and the crude product was chromatographed on silica gel (yield = 0.155 g, 72%).

Preparation of (5 $\alpha$ ,6 $\alpha$ )-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-aminoiminomethylaminopropyl)morphinan-3,6-diol (KRS-2-47)

3,6-bis(t-butyldimethylsiloxy)-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-17-(N-aminoiminomethyl-aminopropyl)morphinan was deprotected using 40% HF in a 10:1 mixture of acetonitrile and tetrahydrofuran as described before. The precipitate

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was filtered and washed with acetonitrile, methylenechloride followed by methanol. KRS-2-47 was obtained as a white powder in 73% yield (70 mg).

5    Example 23      Analgesic Activity

          We have found evidence that these compounds have analgesic activity by showing stereoselectivity for peripheral opioid receptors. Thus, low subcutaneous or intraperitoneal doses of N-methylnalorphninium iodide  
10    (10-300 µg/kg) showed analgesic activity in the mouse test of Hendershot and Forsaith (J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., 1959 125 237-240) and in the rat inflamed paw test of Randall and Selitto (Archs. Int. Pharmacodyn. Ther., 1957 111 409-419), whereas N-allylmorphinium iodide given in doses  
15    of 10 mg/kg was found to be inactive in both tests. S-methylisothiocarbamoyl norheroin iodide was also active in both tests after administration of doses of 1-3 mg/kg.

          Compound KRS-41 (Example 16) was tested for analgesic activity in two mouse analgesia models. In the  
20    first test, the test substance was administered to groups of 5 ICR derived male mice weighing  $22 \pm 2$  g one hour before subplantar injection of formalin (0.02 ml, 1% solution). Reduction of the induced hind paw licking time recorded during the following 20 to 30 minute period  
25    by 50% or more indicates analgesic activity. Table 2 below shows that KRS-41 has analgesic activity at 3 times the morphine concentration, which is consistent with the relative opiate receptor activities discussed below in Example 23.

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Table 2

Treatment	% Reduction in Hind Paw Licking time
Vehicle (5% DMSO/saline)	0
Morphine HCl (10 mg/kg)	100
KRS-41 (10 mg/kg)	12
KRS-41 (30 mg/kg)	75

In the second test, the test substance was administered to groups of 3 ICR derived male mice weighing  $22 \pm 2$  g 30 minutes before injection of PQ (2 mg/kg). Reduction in the number of writhes by 50% or more per group of animals observed during the 5 to 10 minute period after PQ administration, relative to a vehicle treated control group, indicates analgesic activity. Table 3 below shows that KRS-41 has analgesic activity at 5 times the morphine concentration.

Table 3

Treatment	% Reduction in Writhes
Vehicle (5% DMSO/saline)	0
Morphine HCl (3 mg/kg)	87, 73 (two tests)
KRS-41 (3 mg/kg)	18
KRS-41 (15 mg/kg)	93

Example 24      Guinea Pig Stimulated Ileum Preparation

Five compounds, KRS-41 (Example 16), KRS-2-19 (Example 12), KRS-3-28 (Example 18), KRS-3-30-2 (Example 20) and KRS 3-56 (Example 21) were tested for opiate activity in a standard guinea-pig stimulated ileum assay, using morphine as a standard.

Male Monash strain guinea-pigs were killed and the ileum removed. Segments (approxm. 1.5-2.5 cm) were

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mounted on tissue holders with in-built stimulating electrodes, and set up in 5 ml isolated organ baths containing Krebs solution of the following composition (mM): NaCl 118.4; KCl 4.1; MgSO<sub>4</sub>·7H<sub>2</sub>O 1.2; KH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> 1.2; 5 NaHCO<sub>3</sub> 25; glucose 11.1; CaCl<sub>2</sub>·2H<sub>2</sub>O 2.5. The Krebs solution was bubbled with carbogen (95% O<sub>2</sub>, 5% CO<sub>2</sub>), and the preparations maintained at 37°C under 1 gram resting tension. The tissues were stimulated transmurally using single pulses of 0.5 ms duration at 0.2 Hz and 40 V from a 10 Grass SD9 stimulator, and allowed to equilibrate under these conditions before the addition of drugs.

Cumulative dose-response curves to morphine (using increments of a half log unit) were obtained before obtaining cumulative dose-response curves to the test 15 compounds. The results are shown in Figure 1.

Surprisingly, KRS-41 showed excellent activity compared to morphine (Figure 1b). This compound has an aminoiminoethyl substituent on the tertiary N atom, and was expected to have either no activity or antagonist activity. 20 KRS-4-8 gave results similar to those observed with buprenorphine. KRS 3-56 (Figure 10) also showed even more striking activity, with a potency of approximately 6 times that of morphine, and was a full agonist of the  $\mu$  opiate receptor. KRS-2-47 is expected to give similar results.

25 Although KRS-3-28 had low potency compared to morphine, its activity in this assay is comparable to that of codeine. Codeine is metabolized *in vivo* to morphine, so its effect after oral administration is comparable to that of morphine given by injection. KRS-3-28 is expected to 30 metabolize in similar fashion after oral administration or parenteral injection to give a buprenorphine-like compound.

In contrast, KRS-2-19 (Figure 16) and KRS-3-30-2 (Figure 1a) showed only partial morphine agonist activity. It therefore appears that a spacer group in which n is 2 35 results in stronger opiate activity than a spacer in which n is 1.



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KRS-2-63 showed partial agonist activity, but would be expected to be converted *in vivo* by demethylase enzymes in the liver to KRS-41, in a similar manner to metabolism of codeine. Similar results would be expected for other compounds of the invention with a methoxy group at carbon 3.

Example 25      Effect of KRS 3-56 and KRS-41 on the Central Nervous System

The effects of compounds KRS-3-36 and KRS-41 on the central nervous system were compared with that of morphine using a standard Irwin test (Irwin, S.; Psychopharmacologic (Berlin), 1968 13 222-257). The relevant results are shown in Tables 4 and 5.

Table 4

Test	Vehicle	Morphine 10 mg/kg
Tail elevation	2.5 ± 0.7	7.0 ± 0.7
Respiratory rate	5.6 ± 0.2	4.1 ± 0.3
Positional Passivity	4.7 ± 0.3	8.7 ± 0.4
Grip strength	5.1 ± 0.4	3.7 ± 0.3
Corneal reflex	4.5 ± 0.2	2.9 ± 0.2

Table 5

Test	Vehicle	KRS-41 30 mg/kg	KRS-3-56 3 mg/kg
Tail elevation	4.4 ± 0.2	2.0 ± 0.4	2.4 ± 0.4
Respiratory rate	5.1 ± 0.2	5.1 ± 0.2	5.4 ± 0.2
Positional Passivity	4.7 ± 0.2	4.7 ± 0.3	5.4 ± 0.5
Grip strength	5.0 ± 0.3	5.1 ± 0.4	5.1 ± 0.2
Corneal reflex	4.9 ± 0.1	4.9 ± 0.1	4.8 ± 0.1

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These results indicate that the compounds of the invention, while retaining the analgesic activity of morphine, are non-sedating and do not cause respiratory depression. It is believed that this results from  
5 exclusion of the compounds from the central nervous system.

It will be apparent to the person skilled in the art that while the invention has been described in some detail for the purposes of clarity and understanding,  
10 various modifications and alterations to the embodiments and methods described herein may be made without departing from the scope of the inventive concept disclosed in this specification.

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